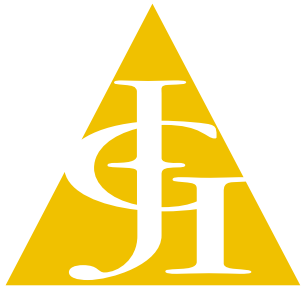


CJI Planning Survey

1999

Highlights And Findings





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CRIMINAL JUSTICE
I N S T I T U T E

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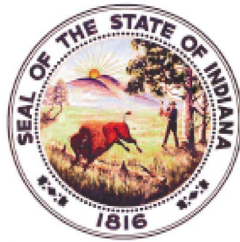
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CJI Planning Survey 1999 Highlights and Findings



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About the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute

Guided by a Board of Trustees representing all components of Indiana's criminal and juvenile justice systems, the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute serves as the state's public safety planning agency. The Institute develops long-range strategies for the effective administration of Indiana's criminal and juvenile justice systems and administers federal and state funds to carry out these strategies.

The Institute oversees a variety of justice programs including the Governor's Criminal Law Study Commission, Governor's Commission for a Drug-Free Indiana, Governor's Council on Impaired & Dangerous Driving, Victim Services, Juvenile Justice Program, Safe Haven, Drug and Crime Control Program, Criminal History Records Improvement, Law Enforcement Assistance Fund, and Police Corp.

To carry out the Institute's planning and administration mandates, the Institute's Board of Trustees identifies statewide needs and resources for fighting crime and delinquency and helping victims of crime. Information gathered from various sources is used to develop statewide criminal and juvenile justice policies and strategic plans. Sources of planning information include the following:

- Evaluations of program effectiveness;
- Research data;
- Needs assessments;
- Local units of government;
- Other state government agencies;
- Professionals involved in justice-related efforts; and
- Concerned citizens.

Indiana's 1999 Strategic Planning Survey (the Survey) serves as an important source of information for criminal and juvenile justice planning in the early years of the new millennium. The Survey captures and quantifies the experience and knowledge of more than 1,500 professionals working in criminal and juvenile justice across the state. This publication presents Survey findings and describes what we learned from this research initiative conducted in the summer of 1999.

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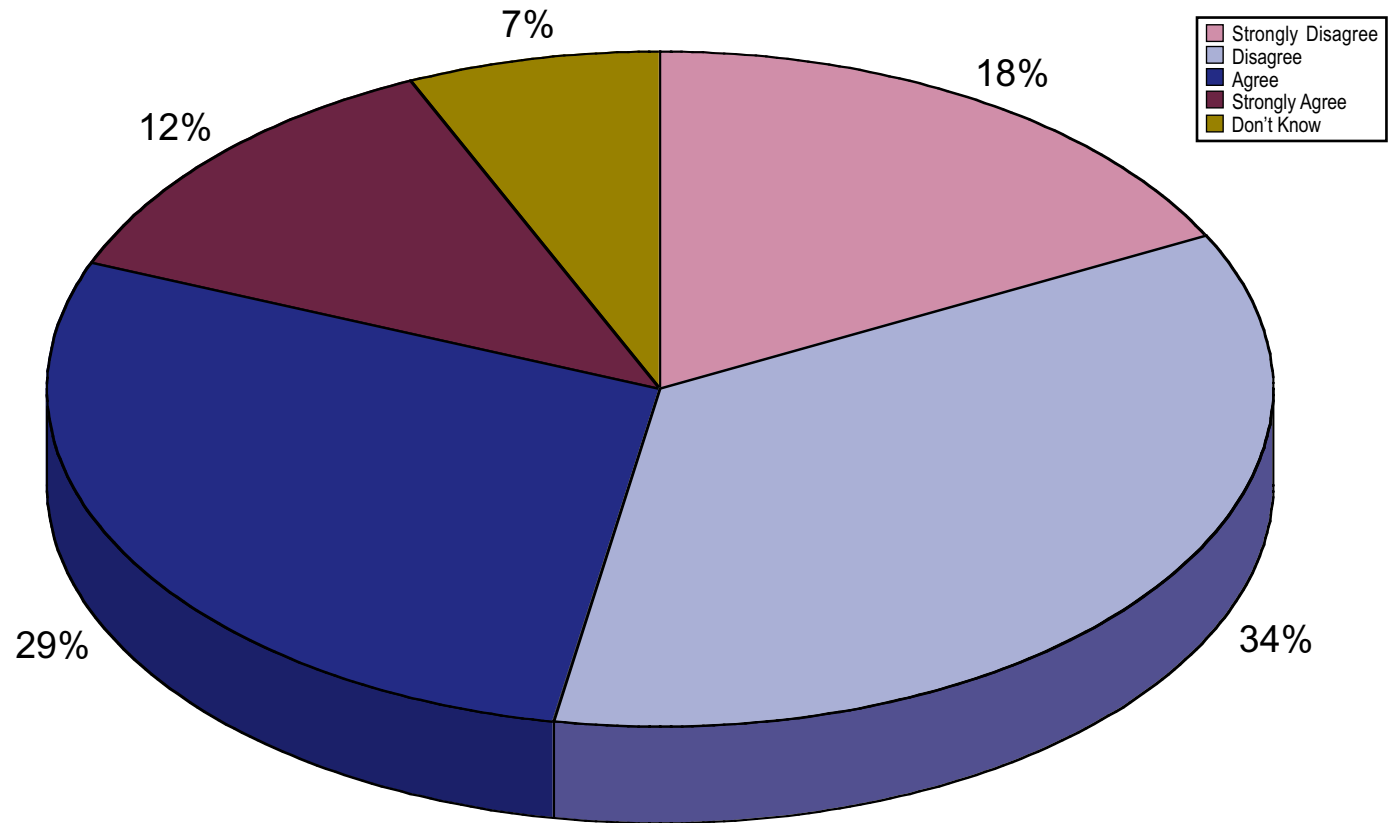
Presence of Organized Gangs in Communities

Survey Question

Question 19:

Indicate the extent of your agreement or disagreement with the following statement by placing a checkmark in one box to indicate strongly disagree, disagree, agree, strongly agree, or don't know.

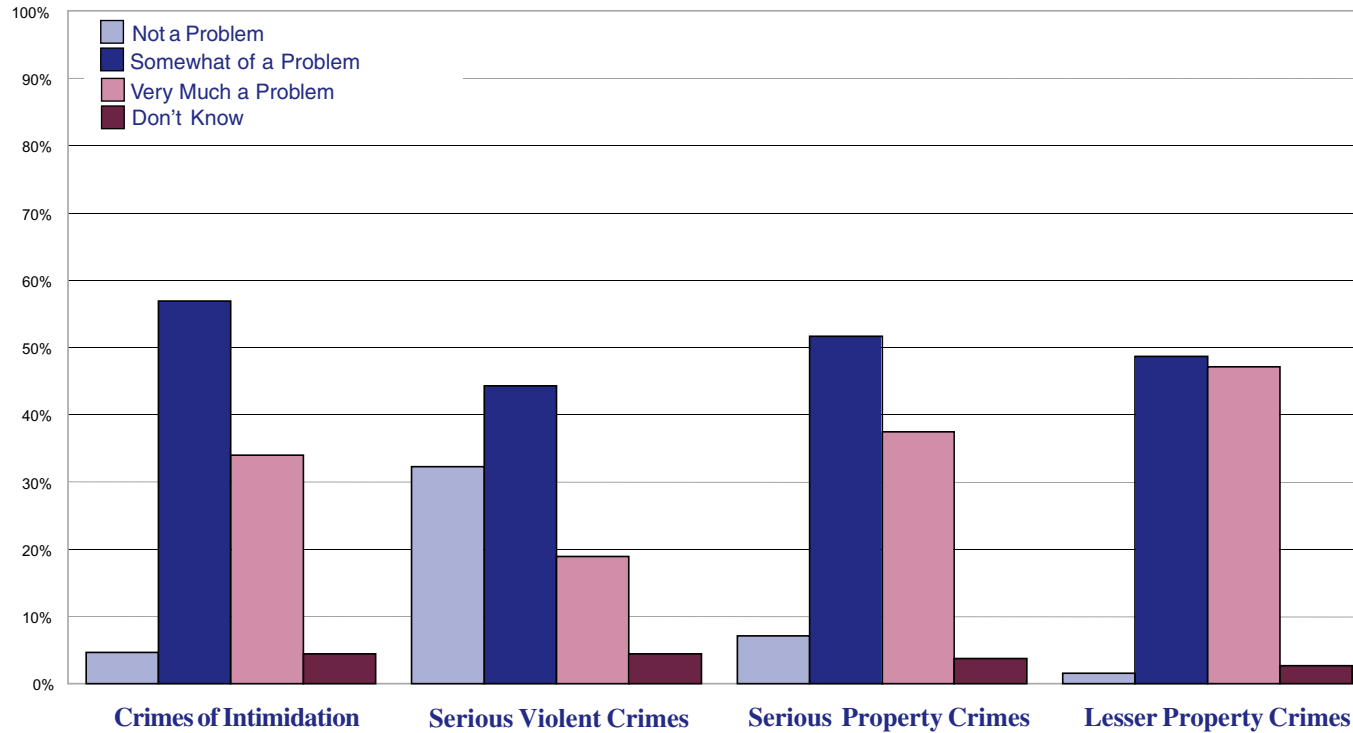
Organized gangs are present in my community. By organized gangs we mean groups that have a definite leadership hierarchy and whose membership is relatively consistent over time.



1,108 respondents answered this question.

Findings: Forty-one percent of respondents either agreed or strongly agreed that organized gangs are present in their communities.

Crimes Committed by Organized Gangs



Survey Question

Question 20:

Now indicate the extent to which you think each of the following types of illegal activity committed by organized gangs are a problem in your community by placing a checkmark in one box to indicate not a problem, somewhat a problem, very much a problem, or don't know.

The number of respondents answering this question was 450 for crimes of intimidation, 449 for serious violent crimes, 451 for serious property crimes, and 450 for lesser property crimes. (Only the responses of people indicating agree or strongly agree to question 19 were considered.)

Findings: Nearly 9 out of every 10 respondents believed that crimes of intimidation, serious property crimes, and lesser property crimes committed by organized gangs are either somewhat or very much a problem in their communities. Two-thirds thought that serious violent crime is somewhat or very much a problem for their communities.

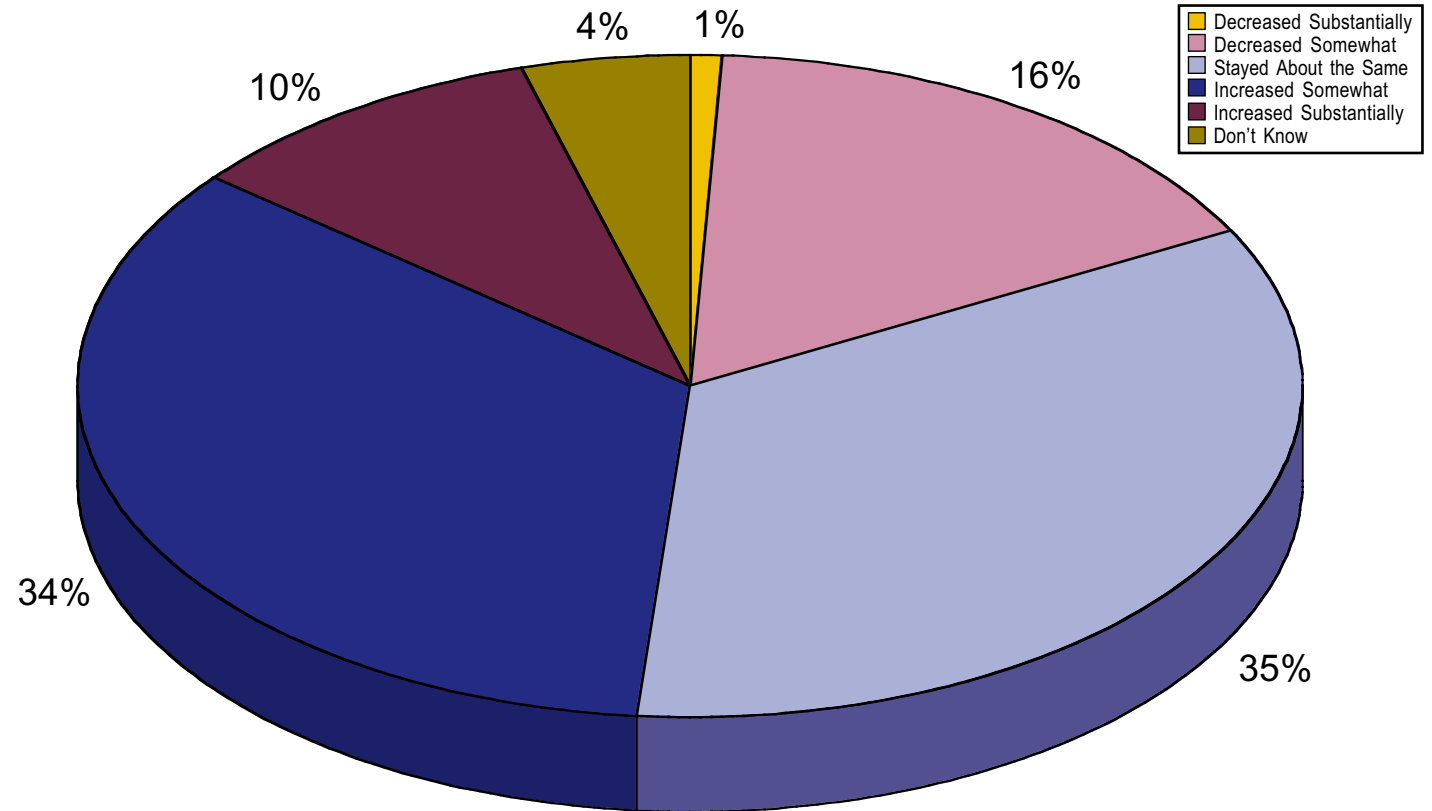
Note: Crimes of intimidation were defined as “e.g., threats, insults, harassment.” Serious violent crimes were defined as “e.g., murder, rape, robbery, assault.” Serious property crimes were defined as “e.g., burglary, auto theft, theft, arson.” Lesser property crimes were defined as “e.g., vandalism, minor thefts, graffiti.”

Changes in the Illegal Activity of Organized Gangs in the Last Three Years

Survey Question

Question 21:

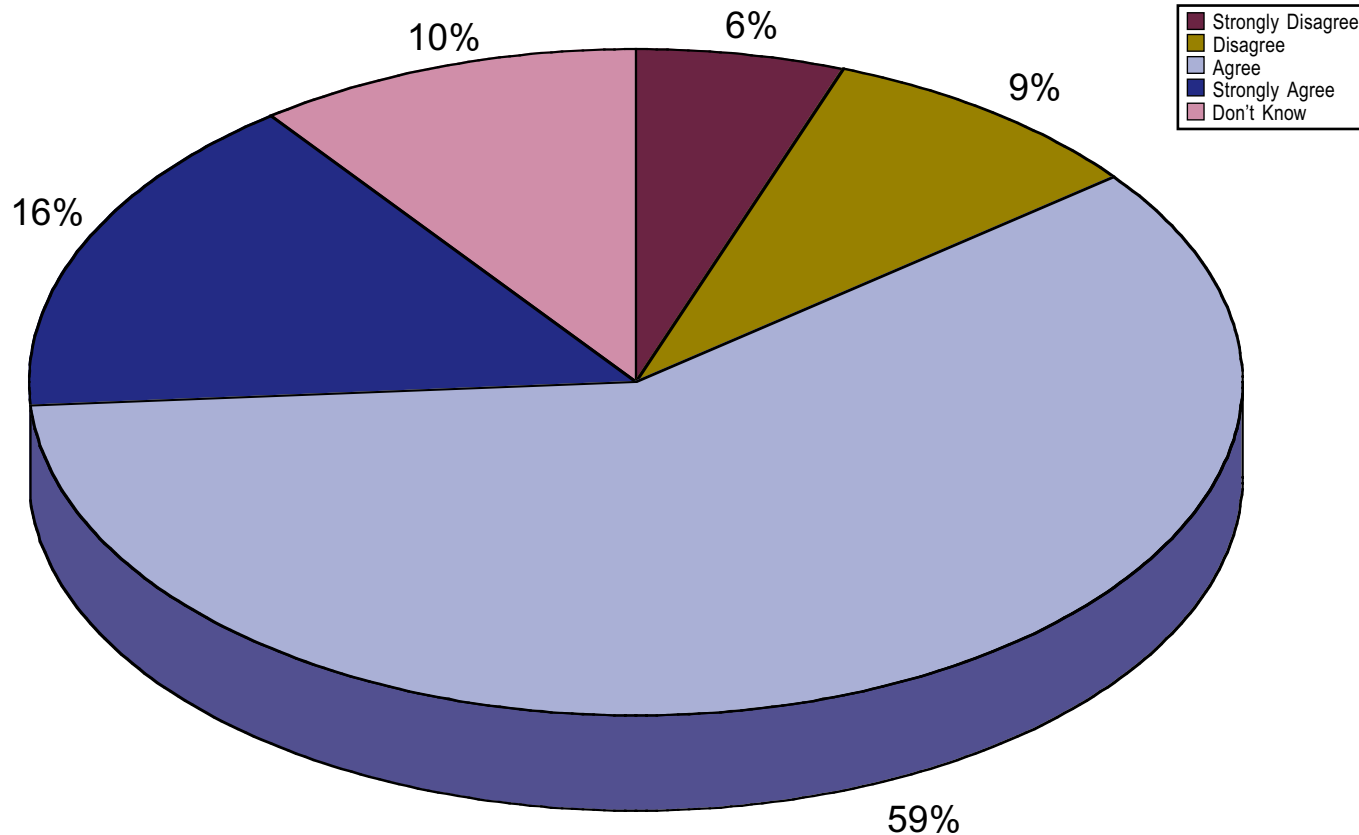
In your opinion, has the illegal activity of organized gangs decreased substantially, decreased somewhat, stayed about the same, increased somewhat, or increased substantially in your community in the last three years?



451 respondents answered this question. (Only the responses of people indicating agree or strongly agree to question 19 were considered.)

Findings: Forty-four percent of respondents reported that the illegal activity of organized gangs increased somewhat or substantially during the years 1996 to 1999.

Presence of Non-Organized Gangs in Communities



Survey Question

Question 22:

Indicate the extent of your agreement or disagreement with the following statement by placing a checkmark in one box to indicate strongly disagree, disagree, agree, strongly agree, or don't know.

Non-organized gangs are present in my community. By non-organized gangs we mean groups that do NOT necessarily have a clear leadership hierarchy and whose membership is relatively inconsistent over time.

1,114 respondents answered this question.

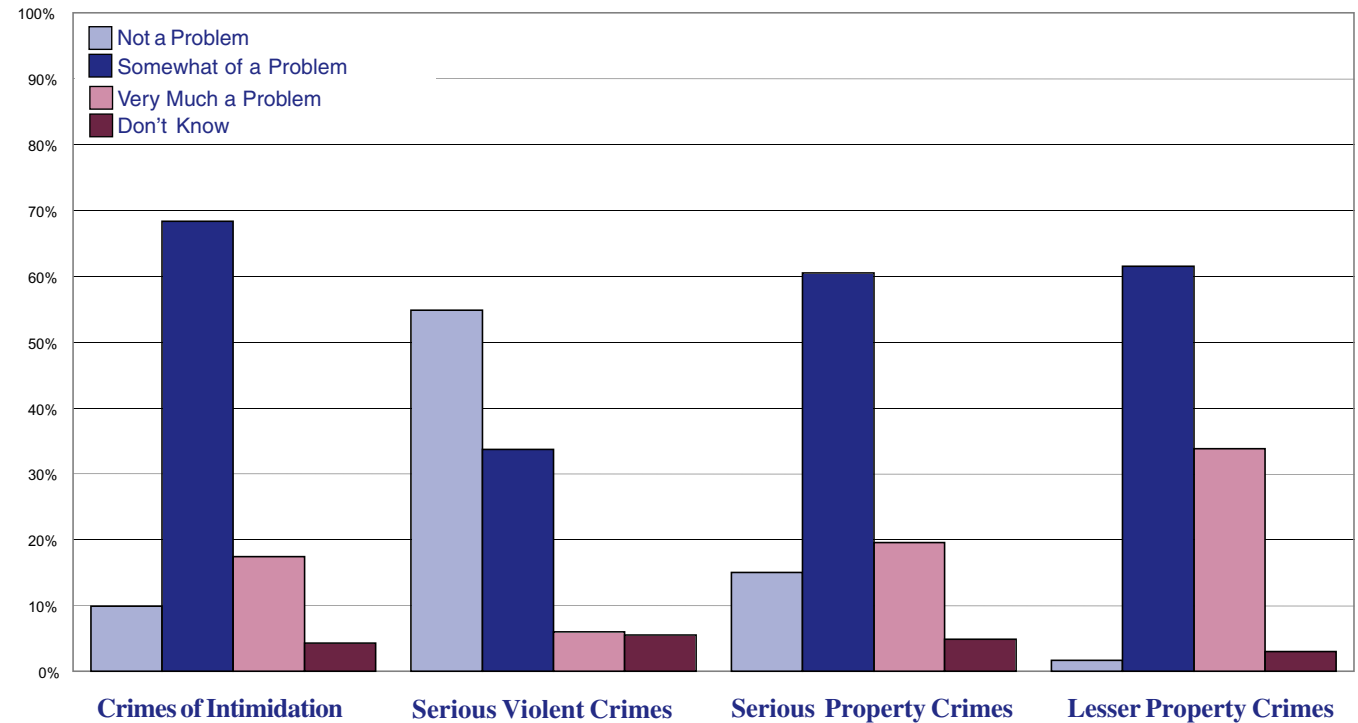
Findings: Seventy-five percent of respondents either agreed or strongly agreed that non-organized gangs are present in their communities.

Crimes Committed by Non-Organized Gangs

Survey Question

Question 23:

Now indicate the extent to which you think each of the following types of illegal activity committed by non-organized gangs are a problem in your community by placing a checkmark in one box to indicate not a problem, somewhat a problem, very much a problem, or don't know.

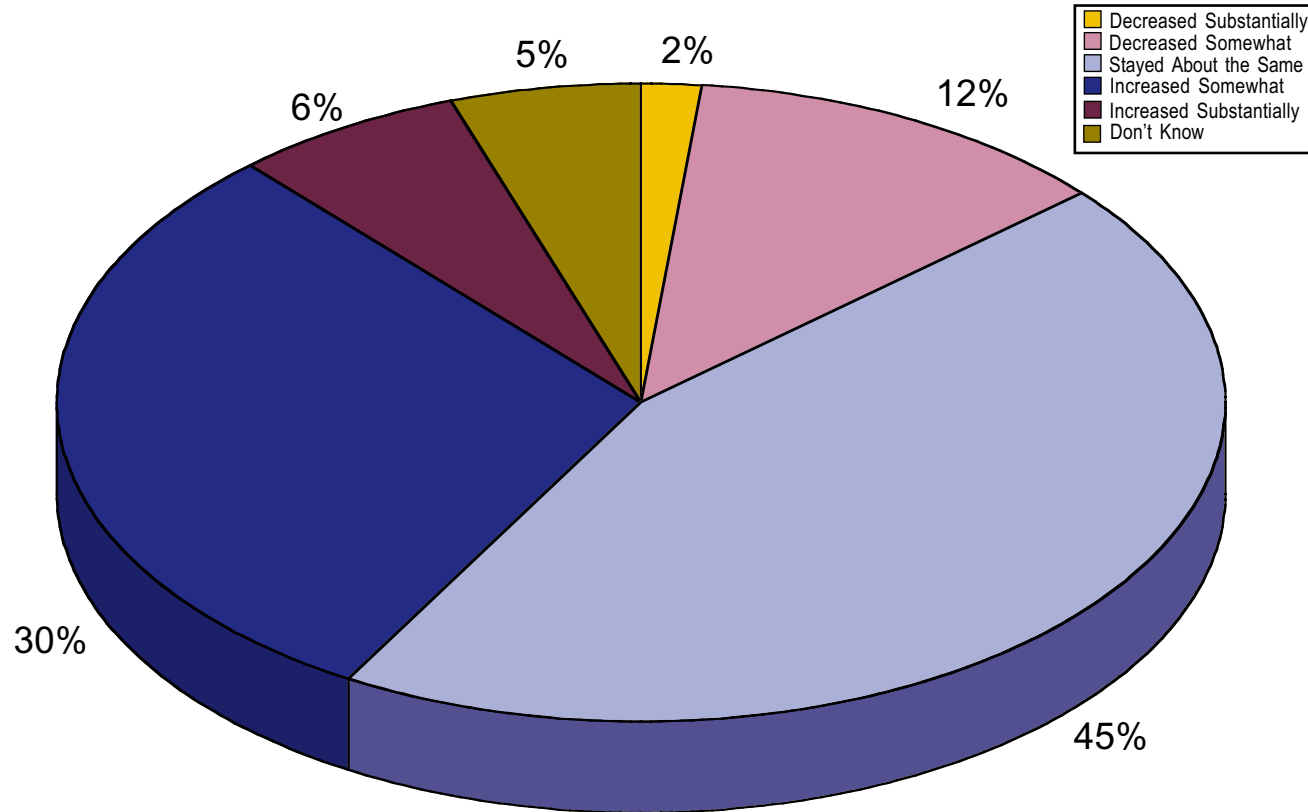


The number of respondents answering this question was 838 for crimes of intimidation, 837 for serious violent crimes, 838 for serious property crimes, and 837 for lesser property crimes. (Only the responses of people indicating agree or strongly agree to question 22 were considered.)

Findings: Eight out of 10 respondents indicated that crimes of intimidation, serious property crimes, and lesser property crimes committed by non-organized gangs are somewhat to very much a problem in their communities. Only 40% thought that serious violent crime is somewhat to very much a problem for their communities.

Note: Crimes of intimidation were defined as “e.g., threats, insults, harassment.” Serious violent crimes were defined as “e.g., murder, rape, robbery, assault.” Serious property crimes were defined as “e.g., burglary, auto theft, theft, arson.” Lesser property crimes were defined as “e.g., vandalism, minor thefts, graffiti.”

Changes in the Illegal Activity of Non-Organized Gangs in the Last Three Years



Survey Question

Question 24:

In your opinion, has the illegal activity of non-organized gangs decreased substantially, decreased somewhat, stayed about the same, increased somewhat, or increased substantially in your community in the last three years?

831 respondents answered this question. (Only the responses of people indicating agree or strongly agree to question 22 were considered.)

Findings: Thirty-six percent of respondents indicated that the illegal activity of non-organized gangs increased somewhat or substantially during the years 1996 to 1999.



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